

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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STORM DEVASTATES WESTERN OREGON

PORTLAND (UPI)--A storm called the worst in the state's history devastated western Oregon from the California border to the Columbia River and then plunged on north today.

At least nine persons were killed in Oregon.

Gov. Mark Hatfield declared a state of emergency and alerted the National Guard. Units moved into Portland, Salem, Albany, Newport and Cottage Grove.

Highways were littered with debris and trees, power lines and phone lines were smashed to earth by winds which reached 120 miles an hour along the Oregon coast.

Big fir trees fell across many roads.

Big fires broke out at Junction City and Klamath Falls.

The steeple at historical Campbell hall at Oregon College, Monmouth was toppled by the wind.

The Junction City fire destroyed a grain-filled warehouses and six houses and damaged a veneer plant.

The Southern Pacific railroad main line was blocked by fire fighting equipment for two hours.

The Klamath Falls fire destroyed a planing mill with firemen defying winds up to 76 m.p.h. to keep it from spreading into a nearby residential area.

Hatfield announced plans to make a statewide summary of damage, which he called 'incalculable at this moment.'

He called the storm 'a major catastrophe' and said it may be the worst in the state's history in terms of damage.

He sent a telegram to President Kennedy in which he said in part:

"Windstorm damage here west of Cascades incalculable at this moment but this will serve to alert you to a possible request for declaration of disaster area."

At least five of the dead were killed by falling trees. There was no count of the number of injuries. One Eugene hospital treated 26. Power companies worked around the clock and estimated it may be four days before all lines are in operation.

A 300 foot landing craft jammed against the Hawthorne bridge in Portland. The bridge was closed Saturday.

Roofs of the Memorial Coliseum and Multnomah Stadium were damaged.

A 553-foot tower collapsed in North Portland.

Florence was badly damaged.

SUNSET EMPIRE HARD HIT BY WIND: GALE HITS 83-KNOT PEAK.

The worst windstorm in Northwest history roared through the Pacific Northwest Friday evening.

The Sunset Empire suffered much damage, but escaped with less destruction than the Willamette valley.

The storm's front moved inland in southern Oregon and howled northward through the valley. The center passed just north of Astoria.

The wind reached a peak velocity of 83 knots (96 m.p.h.) at 7:30 p.m. at the Weather Bureau's Clatsop Airport station.

The storm centered passed north of Astoria about 6 p.m. The northeast wind shifted into the southwest and blew hard for about three hours.

Astoria police reported no serious accident or personal injury here.

Advance warning of the storm sent many Sunset Empire people home early Friday afternoon. Schools were closed early.

The Astoria-Centennial football game Friday was cancelled and is to be replayed tonight at 8 on Gyro Field if power is restored by then.

The Seaside-Rainier game, also cancelled Friday, was rescheduled at 1:30 p.m. today at Rainier.

State police here said hundreds of trees were reported down over roads and highways in the area.

Highways 30 and 26 were closed from 6:30 p.m. Friday to 4 a.m. Saturday. One-way traffic was imposed at some spots Saturday.

Ferries were not operating Saturday because there was no power to operate the lifts on the ramps at the terminals.

State police had no reports of injury.

State police estimated damage in Clatsop county at \$300,000. They said the Astoria area was hardest hit.

Astoria police reported 15 plate glass windows broken, 7 power poles and 5 ornamental light poles down, and four neon signs blown down.

Biggest damage was listed at the Barbey packing company plant. A wall of the tuna cannery was blown in and a portion of the roof collapsed. A roof on the second story of a warehouse also collapsed. Police estimated the Barbey damage at around \$100,000.

A gust of wind ripped out the southwest wall of the main hangar at Clatsop Airport about 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The wall collapsed on boats, airplanes, cars and over vehicles and equipment stored there.

Some aircraft were moved to safety.

Loss to the hangar and equipment crushed inside was estimated at \$80,000.

The roof blew off above three units of the Lamplighter Motel.

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Stores in Seaside and a bank sustained damage estimated at \$5,000. The Warrenton area escaped with little damage. A houseboat near Hendrickson's moorage craved in with loss estimated at \$1,500.

Pacific Northwest Bell had damage estimated at \$40,000. Telephone communications with north shore points was broken.

Columbia River bar pilots said the bar was impassable for shipping for 12 hours up to 6 a.m. Saturday. Three ships waited outside the bar and two were anchored in Astoria harbor through the night. The Coast Guard cutter Yocona was at sea on patrol.

Halley Johnson, manager of West End mooring basin, said most boat owners took precautions when warned of the storm and that the fleet sustained little harm.

Many television antennas, billboards, fruit trees, windows, chimneys and garages were torn down.

A new trailer house just moved to a site at Sunset Beach was split wide open by winds. Debris from the trailer was strewn about. Furnishings were destroyed.

Half the roof of the water tower at the old naval housing on Walluski river blew off.

Greenberg's Furniture reported a show window broke. Rain water soaked furnishings inside.

About three fourths of the roof of a barn on the Mary Filliger property in Lewis and Clark valley blew off. Mrs. Filliger said some cattle were inside, but none was believed hurt.

Telephone service was interrupted in many rural parts of Clatsop County.

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SUNSET EMPIRE WITHOUT POWER: LINEMEN STRIVE TO RESTORE SERVICE

The Sunset Empire experienced this weekend the grim catastrophe that loss of electric power can bring to a modern, electrified community.

Power service failed at 6:10 p.m. Friday--an hour clearly marked by stoppage of many an electric clock.

Power was still off at mid-morning Saturday and PP&L Company was unable to predict when it would be restored.

The company hoped service would be back some time Saturday afternoon.

People shivered and went hungry as electric furnaces, stoves and other electric utilities went out of action.

Most restaurants were closed. One Astoria restaurant was operating, using gas fuel.

PP&L reported that the power failed Friday night when many trees blew across the Bonneville Power Administration's Longview-Astoria line at two places just this side of Rainier.

The company did not attempt to fire up its auxiliary steam plant here because it takes a couple of days to get the plant into operation. It was believed normal power service could be restored before the steam plant could be put into service.

PP&L officials said at mid-morning they hoped to have service restored at least to downtown Astoria and local industrial plants by some time Saturday afternoon.

But it will take longer to get service back in outlying areas.

"Our lines were virtually flattened in Bradwood, Olney and some other communities," said a PP&L official.

George Nostrant, PP&L general superintendent at Portland, reported much trouble all along the coast and up and down the Willamette valley.

Three crews had been assigned to the Astoria-Longview line to try to get service back as soon as possible, he said.

Extra crews were flown in by PP&L from Yakima, Walla Walla and even from Wyoming and Montana.

PP&L had all its service crews from the Astoria area out all night, working on the breaks in the BPA line near Rainier.

As soon as these breaks were repaired, an attempt was to be made to "hot up" the line into Astoria. If this did not restore service, other breaks along the line would be sought.

Both local hospitals went through the night with candlepower. Volunteers came in to help elderly patients. No cases requiring emergency surgery developed.

Neither hospital has auxiliary power.

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Clatsop college's open house Sunday will take place on schedule even if there is no power, President Richard Boss said. It starts at 1 p.m.

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This Saturday edition of the Daily Astorian is produced by mimeograph due to total lack of electric power to run linotype machines, presses, and other equipment.

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The US Weather Bureau foretold a mild storm for tonight, but warned another serious one may blow in Sunday night.

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Insurance agents reported they are getting many calls about damaged roofs. All roof repair men were out working Saturday.

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Food stores in Astoria were open Saturday. Some other stores were open and some were closed.

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Some gasoline stations have installed emergency equipment to run gas pumps.